

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, November 26, 1843, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON

Washington, November 26, 1843.

My Dear General: . . . The members of Congress are dropping in pretty rapidly as you will perceive from the Globe. I have seen almost all of the Democrats who are here. So far as I have ventured to broach the question of the election of officers, I have found them resolved to stand together for the cause. I have not, however, drawn out the few Calhoun men who are here fully on the subject. But the indications given out by some two or three of the States rights Georgia members seem to favor adhesion to the majority. The Spectator of yesterday (Calhoun's organ) strongly intimates hostility to the national Democratic convention, as if it were feeling its way to make defection from the decision of the majority in caucus in regard to the organization of the House. My impression is that Jones of Va. will be nominated for Speaker, and the aspect so far is favorable for me as printer. There is however a strong combination against me. Mr. Kendall I find has written letters to every member of our party in the union. He is supported by the administration, which it is known promises offices to the friends of members contingently upon my defeat. The aspirants are here busy electioneering against me. This is the case of Slamm of the Plebian of New York. 1 Penn, it appears, directs his influence to the same point, but my impression is that the administration and its constituents have over-rated their fronts, have overshot the mark. Strange as it may seem, there is little doubt but that Clay's friends are ready to cooperate with Tyler's and Calhoun's in the effort to defeat the will of the mass of our party. But even if Calhoun's friends should determine upon a new secession from the Democracy, they and Clay's friends

Library of Congress

together cannot succeed without Buchannan Cass and Johnson give their whole party strength to it. And even then it would fail, unless some elected under pledges to Van Buren should prove recreant. I therefore, think the chances are in favor of the Democratic

1 Levi D. Slamm, "Locofoco" editor of the Plebeian , newspaper.

class=MsoNormal>0269 245 organization being carried according to the wishes of the true men of the party. And this is all I wish. If the majority are willing to break down the press you established, to confirm Clay's condemnation of me as infamous and his infamous violation of my contract, by adding a Democratic proscription of the Globe, to the attainder passed by federalism in 1840, I shall bow in silence to the sentence, and after having fought the campaign of 1844 retire from public life. I shall do nothing subsequently to justify such a party ostracism, as I think I have not done it yet, certainly done nothing towards Mr. Kendall, to warrant his asking it, at the hands of our common friends. He might have had the position I occupy, if he had desired it, when you were looking round for some one to prepare against Green's defection. Mr. Kendall preferred Executive preferment and obtained it, and now he asks the party to take from me the position he would not have and with it my reputation. I shall however see to it; I will be active, vigilant and prudent, and having done my duty will be patient under any consequences. Yours affectionately